

New Annexation Studies Could Be Controversial

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

Growing pains can best be described as the pains of a rapidly developing youngster. This troublesome fact is especially evident here in California, where our soaring population is producing all sorts of aches and pains for our cities, counties and other local agencies.

A good example from the lengthy list of causes of such miseries is annexation of additional territory by cities. The Assembly committee on municipal and county government recently held a series of hearings on the problems relating to such annexations, and was given some pretty vigorous opinions as to defects in existing laws as well as forthright suggestions for improvement.

IT'S AN inescapable fact that new residents are free to settle wherever their desires and resources permit. Therefore, it can be no surprise that in their settling they are not particularly respectful of city, county, or other governmental boundaries — until after they have become somewhat familiar with their new surroundings. As a result, many California cities are experiencing heavy pressure, not only from new residents within their existing limits, but also from urbanized fringe areas in adjacent unincorporated territory. Counties can be affected by similar situations.

Spokesmen for various cities who appeared at the hearings criticized existing laws on annexation as cumbersome, out-of-date, and biased. It was contended they encourage strong competition between neighboring cities for new territory without regard for the best interests of the cities or the area involved. It was asserted that they foster illogical and unsound municipal expansion, and frequently produce "gerrymandered," freakish boundaries.

IN RECENT YEARS, we have enacted legislation intended to remedy the evils of "strip" annexations by which competing cities attempt to outmaneuver each other for control of desirable territory.

Other legislation was enacted to correct the problems created by "islands" of unincorporated land left within city boundaries by gerrymandered annexations. Our efforts in these directions were only partially successful, according to statements made to the committee.

PRESENT LAWS create a difficult situation because they authorize two different approaches to annexation. With respect to uninhabited territory, an existing city may initiate a proposed annexation, and may complete it after securing consent of the specified pro-

portion of property owners involved. But with respect to inhabited areas, a city cannot initiate a proposal. Only a petition from a specified proportion of area residents and property owners can start a proposal. Witnesses who appeared at the hearings were united in supporting a change in the law to permit cities to begin proceedings for inhabited land.

"IT IS QUITE amazing," declared one speaker, the extent to which feelings will run in some of these matters with cases of anonymous phone calls, business boycotts, and the breaking up of long standing bridge foursome being reported." He added that because of the bias of existing law opponents of annexation are given a head start, and often use false propaganda to scare the voters.

The committee also received considerable testimony about the suggestion that cities be permitted to cross boundaries in annexations. From the remarks of several Legislators, it was apparent this matter will be hotly controversial. Other proposals advanced included one to permit "de-annexation," and another to develop "borough" or "metropolitan area" governmental units to get the benefits of consolidation without losing those of local autonomy. To annex or not to annex looks like a good question for us in 1961.

Kaplan to Head New Jewish War Veterans Post

Newest unit of the Jewish War Veterans, South Bay Post 777, will be instituted on Friday, May 20, at 8:30 p.m. at Temple Menorah, 112 N. Catalina Ave., in Redondo Beach. Irwin Kaplan of Torrance, a past commander of Santa Monica Post No. 224, was instrumental in organizing the Post, and will be installed as Charter Commander.

Other officers will be Earle Sumpter, senior vice-commander; Bernice Tonkie, junior vice-commander; C. A. Meyers, quartermaster; Stanley Feinberg, adjutant; Rabbi Henri Front of Temple Menorah, chaplain; and Dr. Maurice Eilenhorn, surgeon.

Bernard Rodin, commander of JMW's Sixth Region, will present the Post charter; Department Commander Joseph A. Golden, will institute the members; and National Executive Committeeman, William Klugman, will install the officers.

New Marymount College to Get Flags, Poles

The flagpole used in the victory ceremonies at the 8th Winter Olympics Games in Squaw Valley will be presented to the new Marymount College campus in Palos Verdes at ceremonies on Thursday morning, May 26.

Formal presentation of the historic flagpole will be made by Supervisor Burton Chace. A flag which has flown over the Capitol will be presented by John M. MacFaden on behalf of Congressman Cecil R. King. Presentation of the California State Flag will be made by State Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel.

Also on the day's program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. on the campus at 6717 W. Palos Verdes Drive South, will be the planting of trees by the four college classes and tours of the buildings on the 45-acre hillside site of the \$7,500,000 educational facility.

The new college will open its doors on Sept. 12 with Mother Gertrude, RSHM, as president.

Measles Lead Here
Eight cases of measles, two cases of hepatitis, two of mumps, and two of scarlet fever were reported within the city of Torrance to the Los Angeles County Health Department for the week ending May 7.

Montana Guests
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hallow and son, Johnny, of Butte, Mont., have returned to their home after a week's visit here with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis, 17204 Eastwood Ave.

Holiday Change In Trash Days
May 30 is a legal holiday, and will be observed by employees of the rubbish collection division of the city, Wade E. Peebles, director of public works reported yesterday.

Rubbish normally collected on this day will be picked up the following Tuesday, May 31. Residents are asked to place their containers for collection on the day following their normal pickup days for that week only. Rubbish normally collected on Friday of this holiday week will be picked up on Saturday, June 4, 1950.

Demos to Hold Pot-Luck Dinner

As a pot luck dinner will precede organization business at the Torrance Democrats Inc. next regular meeting Wednesday evening, May 18, at Higgins Brickyard, 2217 W. 174th St., those who are planning to attend are reminded the dinner will start promptly at 7 p.m.

Due to the rapidly expanding membership it is requested that all interested call executive secretary, Junette West at FR 6-3647 and inform her of the number who will be in their party and the item they wish to bring for dinner.

For those who cannot get there until later, the business meeting is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

Obituaries

MYRON D. McCAMISH

Funeral services for Myron Dean McCamish of 191 E. 213th St., were conducted on April 12 at the McCormick Mortuary in Redondo Beach. Mr. McCamish, who was employed by the Pacific Gas & Electric in Marin County for many years before his retirement, had lived in Torrance for seven years.

He is survived by his widow, Nicolene Axtell McCamish.

MIKE ROY BARRETT

Funeral services for Mike Roy Barrett, 66, of 22412 S. Harvard Ave., were held at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel yesterday and inter-

ment followed at Green Hills Memorial Park.

Mr. Barrett, a native of Illinois, had resided here for 15 years prior to his death Thursday.

He is survived by his widow, Merle.

Marine Acting S/Sgt. Robert G. Bureau, son of Mrs. Lucy Bureau of 22634 Orchard St., is serving with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Ana.

Marine Pvt. Larry A. Cagle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Cagle of 20315 S. Denker, is serving at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Ana.



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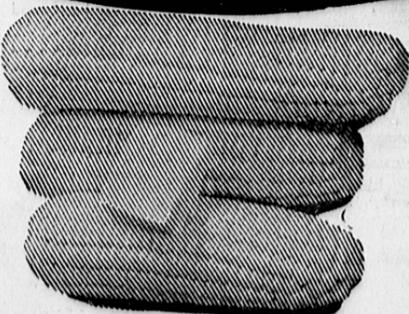
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